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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the current political situation in Haiti issued on 26 January 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the current political situation in Haiti, issued on 26 January 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union deplores the current political and constitutional crisis in Haiti. It considers dialogue between the President of the Republic and the political forces concerned to be essential if democracy is to evolve in Haiti.

The European Union feels that a lasting solution to the crisis can only come about through elections conducted in a free, honest and open atmosphere. The European Union believes that preparing for such elections and establishing a new Electoral Council is a task that must involve all the political forces concerned, as the President of the Republic has pointed out.

The European Union would emphasize that its strong commitment - and that of its member States - to Haiti since the end of 1994 is based on the wish to see that country returned to democracy. The responsibility for consolidating democracy in the country falls to the President, the Government and the Parliament in their capacity as representatives of the Haitian people. At the same time, that consolidation is the major criterion in relations between the European Union and the Republic of Haiti.

The European Union calls upon all concerned to embark on a political dialogue in order to establish a new Electoral Council with a view to organizing elections as soon as possible. The European Union states again its readiness to assist in preparing these elections, its aim being to offer electors the widest possible choice of political opinions and candidates and to encourage everyone to participate.